

In the Drawings

There are no amendments to the drawings.

Remarks

The Examiner requested confirmation of the verbal communication with Mr. Whitmyer that claims 3-6 and 16-17 are elected with traverse. Applicants hereby make such confirmation.

The Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Applicants cancelled this claim, and therefore the Examiner's rejection is moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-5 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,820,386 to LaConti and claims 3-4, 6, and 16-17 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,830,730 to Rhodes.

All claims relate to a reactor for oxidizing or reducing a sample, a filter coupled to the reactor, an electrochemical sensor coupled to the filter, and wherein the sensor includes a substrate having a surface for depositing electrodes thereon; an ionomer membrane in contact with the surface of the substrate and having a first surface and a second surface; an electrode in contact with the surface of the substrate; and, an opening extending from the first surface to the second surface in a location proximate to the electrode for defining a passage.

The Office Action states LaConti discloses a reactor (24), a filter (36) coupled to the reactor, and a detector (10) coupled to the filter. However, the sensing electrode 24 is not the same as Applicants' claimed reactor. All of Applicants' claims relate to the reactor oxidizing or reducing the sample, as provided in Applicants' specification, paragraph 39, which states the reactor 54 oxidizes and/or reduces the sample of gases or liquid by heating the component together with a reactant gas 56 at a specified temperature. Such feature is claimed in Applicants' claims, and unlike Examiner's assertion, Applicants' reactor is different from LaConti's sensing electrode 24 because a sensing electrode is not capable of heating the sample to oxidize or reduce it, all as attributed to Applicants' claimed reactor.

Moreover, even assuming the sensing electrode 24 is a reactor, LaConti's filter 36 is not coupled to the reactor but instead is spaced apart from the electrode (as shown in figure 1). Additionally, the shoulder of filter 36 abuts the surface of the housing and the housing prevents the electrode 24 from being connected to the filter 36. Further, since the sensor is labeled 10 and it includes the filter 36 and sensing electrode 24 as a part of the sensor 10, Applicants cannot understand how the sensor 10 (which includes filter 36 as a part of the detector 10) is coupled to itself or a part of it.

Because a sensing electrode is not a reactor, and because the electrode is not coupled to the filter, and because the filter is a part of the sensor and the sensor cannot be coupled to a component of itself, the rejections with respect to LaConti are improper and should be withdrawn.

Rhodes relates to a detector being coupled to a sample conditioner, but the detector is not disclosed in accordance with Applicants' claims, to be a sensor having a substrate having a surface for depositing electrodes thereon; an ionomer membrane in contact with the substrate surface, the ionomer membrane having a first surface and a second surface; an electrode in contact with the substrate surface; and, an opening extending from the first surface to the second surface in a location proximate to the electrode for defining a passage.

Because Rhodes does not disclose a sensor having these limitations, Applicants submit the rejections with respect to Rhodes are also improper and should be withdrawn.

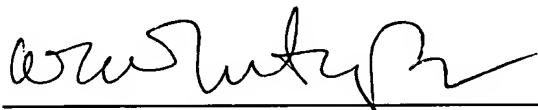
The Examiner rejected claims 3-6 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,013,707 to Prohaska in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,637,506 to Goken. Because Prohaska and this application are currently owned by the same party, the Prohaska reference may not be used in combination with Goken to make a rejection of claims 3-6 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103. Therefore, these rejections are improper and should be withdrawn. Pursuant to the requirements under 37

C.F.R. §1.130, enclosed is a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c) and an oath as evidence of the common ownership.

Applicants thus traverse all of the Examiner's rejections, and consider all pending claims allowable. Applicants consider the foregoing Response to be completely responsive to the April 5, 2006 Office Action. Should the Examiner deem a telephone conference necessary to expedite prosecution of the present case, the undersigned invite the Examiner to call at the given telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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